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Randolph Laura
January 30, 2012

To:
The Postal Regulatory Commission:
901 N. York Ave.
Suite 200

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

Refer to Docket # 1378789-51649

Attention to The Committee:

This is a reply to your letter dated January 23, received in our Post Office on January 29.

This brief is in answer to your letter. In it I am stating the facts concerning closing of our Post Office.

(1) Our April 18, 2011, "Study Meeting" had 162 persons in attendance instead of "0" (per the Proposal to Close, notice) Ron Reilly counted 148 himself. Your Post Office District office stated 0 in Attendance.

(2) Petitions for keeping our Post Office open had 270 Signatures.

(3) Driving to Malvern Pa. for Postal needs is a 20 mile round trip instead of 8 to 9 miles per figure in

Closing Imposed.

(4) If a customer had to catch a rural carrier, he would have to leave a note in the cluster box. (Which was what we were told was to be used,) for the rural carrier to hook his horn. The customer would have to make another trip to the cluster boxes if the customer heard the horn.

(5) They said that the carrier would deliver to the door of a handicapped person - BUT - if there was one able bodied person who lived in the house, they would not, even if that able bodied person worked at a job else where all day.

(6) They have not given any answers to how the closing would affect our Bank which is one of their larger cash customers in the State.

(7) I have asked dozens of times for the Profit & Loss statement for our Post Office, and have been told many different lies about how, what, or when I would receive the material. I have kept all paper correspondence with the

③

Postal District Office plus dozens of phone records. The only information I have received was the utility costs and the Lease cost. This was information we already knew since the town billed them.

⑧ We have received no answers to the main question of how this would affect our Bank and others in our community. They say that they do not speculate. They have not talked to our Bank to see how much they will loose in the shift of the Bank's business to a private courier and electronic methods. I have noticed this in every meeting of which I have attended. They don't acknowledge anything as to loss of Business and greatly expand their figures on the savings.

⑨ They substitute words and statements, such as regular and effective service, when their rules call for maximum degree of service.

(4)

- (10) The customers have to fit their time into watching for the mail carrier everytime they want something, other than just mailing a letter. If the people work elsewhere during the day, how can they make contact with the Rural Carrier? This same service was available back in 1800's, only then it was called "the Pony Express."
- (11) The main excuse for this closing of all the small Post Offices, is to save money, but this time next year, the Postal Authority will be just as far in the hole and all rural towns will be mad as Hell at them. You seem to ~~like~~ believe only the facts that your area people supply you with. These facts as shown below, blows their "facts" down the drain. Ask you, "Do your job and follow up and see what the true facts are."

(5)

What the P.O. District says is Fact.

P.M. Salary	= 33,168	No Income
Fringe Benefits	= 11,111	
Lease Cost	= 10,059	
	<u>54,338</u>	
Sub Rural Route	9,536	
	<u>44,802</u>	2 nd year
cluster Boxes	4,500	
one time expense	<u>40,302</u>	1 st year

Things that are Actual Facts.

Salary, Temps	30,000
Fringe Benefits	- 0 -
Lease Per Year	10,059 - goes for 7 more yrs.
	<u>40,059</u>
	+ 14,720 owed the counter
	+ 30,000 approx Bank Business
	<u>+ 4,661</u> Profit less Utilities

The lease on the Building is a non-cancellable lease that runs for approx 7 more years, regardless of whether the Post Office is closed or not. They don't even estimate the loss of the Business to the Post Office - and once more

(6)

the Business to the Post Office's
and once the Business is lost
it will need be recaptured

I realize that this appeal process
is just a part of the formality which
you have to perform, when in actuality
it carries no hope for any small
rural Post Office. Thru out this
process, I have talked to Congressmen,
and legal people about your ability
and authority to handle the decision
to close any Post Office.

It boils down to a zero. This
brings up the question of why the costs
of your agency should be a part of our
Federal Deficit.

Yours Truly,
Vance Trivette

P.S. One thing you might notice, is that
your letter to me, was written on Jan. 23rd
and I received it on Jan. 30, 2012 and
yet I have responded by Feb 3 - 3 days time
limit to get letter back to you. I could have
E-mailed back to you and saved postage.

CITY OF RANDOLPH

P O BOX 88
RANDOLPH, IOWA 51649

To: The Postal Regulatory Commission
901 N. York Ave.
Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20268-0001
Refer to docket #1378789-51649

This letter is an appeal to stop any action, by the United States Postal Service to close our Post office at Randolph, IA 51649. They have not done their research very well before we were put on the list to close. They have not given any reason for the closing except the fact that we do not have a postmaster since ours retired. They are the ones in charge of hiring!! Our small town has one of the largest banks privately owned in Iowa.

When we were informed of the planned "Study Meeting" I asked Todd Case (P.O. District Manager) to bring down the financial profit and loss figures concerning our Post office. The night of the meeting he said that he forgot to bring them. I called every day the next week and he would give me a different excuse each day. Finally, on that Friday he informed me that I would have to go through the Freedom of Information Act in Washington, D.C. to get those figures. I did that on that day via fax and received a case #2011-FPRO-00695, on April 28th, 2011. I received a letter (copy enclosed) from the Postal Service acknowledging it. On May 3, 2011 I received another letter confirming the same. (Copy enclosed) On May 19th I received a letter from Ron Reilly in response to my request as to what attorney office the postal service used. In it he states that we will not receive all of the information I requested due to the study phase. (Copy enclosed)

On June 3, 2011 our attorney sent a letter to Ms. Julie Hellerud about the delay of the information that we requested (copy enclosed). On June 6, we received a letter from Todd Case saying that due to the move of their FSO/facility service office, they were extending the response time due to "unusual circumstances". (Copy enclosed)

On June 15, 2011 we received another letter (this follows after repeated phone calls by me to them and also a personal visit to their office) informing me that we would only be receiving part of the information that we had requested. (Copy enclosed) Citing trade secrets and competition. All we got were the amount of utilities (of which the town and our elevator bill them for (sewer, water, landfill fee, sheriff's fee and heating fuel) and the cost of the building lease which was revealed the night of the study meeting, so they knew that we already knew that. As you can see there were no other expenses listed and no income. (Copy enclosed)

Finally the proposal to close comes to our post office on 7-19-11. You will notice that they have listed that 0 customers attended the study meeting. Ron Reilly himself counted 148 before the meeting started. I passed a visitor's signature paper and it has 162 names on it. Quite a different from their statement of 0.

They also list \$14,720 over the counter revenue and 1 permit mailer or postage meter customer. What they don't say is that one customer is our bank which does approximately \$2,200 to \$2,700 a month postage business for approximately \$30,000 per year and that bank will be here forever. The bank has said that should the post office close, it will be forced to go to private courier on money transfers and encouraged customers to go online so that the service will remain the same time wise. Also, the town, which are saying is to handle our mail is a 20 mile roundtrip and that is a lot of money for gas to mail a package or get information, etc. This talk of meeting the rural carrier for information, money orders, etc. is a bunch of hogwash. I know every man, woman, and child in our town, and a lot of them due to age, handicap, etc. would not be able to meet the rural carrier even if by some miracle he came the same time each day. This talk about rural carrier service being comparable to Post office is way off base. There were people that thought that the pony express was good in its day. Today is not that day. As you can see there were no other expense and no income.

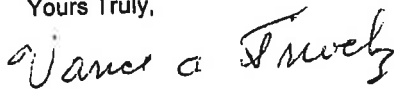
Finally, we get to the estimated savings of which Todd Case has as \$44,802 annually. Our Post office as it is now run does not pay a post master's salary. It pays only an hourly wage and uses 2 persons alternating to bypass the 40 hr. week and no fringe benefits, so their savings of \$44,802 is way off base. Plus the lease which has a non cancelable clause runs to August of 2018 whether the post office is closed

or not. These fuzzy math figures on this total closure notice are so far out as to be right down dumb. When you add the total revenue and the ACTUAL expenses since our last postmaster retired, our town is holding its own dollar wise. This is the main and only reason that Todd Case was withholding the financial figures.

I attended a meeting in Ft. Dodge, IA, by invitation, where there were many towns represented plus Gov. Bransted and Representatives of Senators Harkin, Grassley and Rep. King. They asked each person in attendance to give their experience with the Postal people in the closing process of their Post office. You could make a movie of the horror stories given that day. Call me and I will direct you to the persons firsthand about their experience. (402-889-1307) Bransted said that he was going to try and get a moratorium to stop the closings in Iowa. The Congressional representatives were going to see about a congressional hearing. I told them that their efforts would be well and good, but by the time that they accomplished that all of the Post offices that were represented would be closed.

I then put forward the idea of a class action lawsuit, in federal court, which brought A LOT of response. Our small town is different from a lot of towns in that when we see that something needs to be done, everybody gets behind it and gets it done. A federal lawsuit will cost up to \$20,000 and we will invite any other town to join us. I have also enclosed an article about our town which will show that we do what we say we will and don't bluff. What makes this almost a crime is that even considering that all these small post offices to be closed, it will not make a dent in the loss figure of the U.S. Postal Service. Another item is that the claim of 25% of retail sales are at Wal-Mart's or wherever, they don't stop to think of where we mail our letters that we buy stamps for.

Yours Truly,



Mayor Vance Trively
City of Randolph

CITY OF RANDOLPH

P O BOX 88
RANDOLPH, IOWA 51649

CC: Gov. Bransted, Senator Harkin, Senator Grassley, Rep. King, Kyle Munson, Andrew Nelson, Dean Granholm, Marianne Price, Jennifer Rep. from Wall Street Journal, John Vermass

To: Pat Donahoe

Pat, I assume that you and the other persons in the top posts of the U.S. Postal Service have a higher IQ than us ordinary people. I would like for all of you to use a little of that "High IQ" and look at the mess that our postal service is in, how it got there, and how to fix it.

I represent a small town in Iowa, as their Mayor and we have been involved with this Postal closing since day one. The more I see of the small towns going through this **Farce** of a study, notice of possible closing, notice of closing and appeal, and then the actual closing, the more disgusted I get. I have been through our experience of this **Farce** up to final closing notice and appeal process. I have attended meetings at other towns that are having the same treatment. We had 270 names on petitions against the closing and 162 signed in attendance at our study meeting- this was a standing room crowd only at our study meeting. I have attended meeting at Ft. Dodge, IA, and Des Moines, IA where we met with our Governor, Representatives of Congress, their aides, as well as Dean Granholm and his people from your office, and many news persons.

When we ask direct questions of the Postal Reps. We either don't get any straight answers or are lied to. I have

attended several study meetings at other towns and the answers to various questions could change to suit the Postal person in charge of that meeting that night.

I have also talked to Anne Kennedy in the Postal Regulatory office, in Washington D.C. about the process. She could not answer me, when I asked how many small Post offices survived in the appeal process. She did not know, but thought there were a few. I said that I could refresh her memory- from 2001 to Jan. 1st 2011, there were 799 small post offices put up for closing-26 appealed, 7 were heard by their committee-2 were found to have merit- 100% closed.

Then, at the Des Moines meeting, I told Dean Granholm, what I knew about the appeal process up until Jan. 1st of 2011 and asked him if he knew of any Post offices that had survived the appeal process after Jan. 1st, 2011. He gave me the same answer that Anne Kennedy did, that he thought that there were some. I asked him if he could name one. **He could not!**

I have seen first-hand the fuzzy math that your people are supplying to justify the thought that these closings will save money. The sorry part of this, is that the closing of this enormous number of small town post offices, will not amount to a pimple on a gnat's ass, as for as the Postal service's financial problems.

There are several real ways to solve your financial problems without killing small towns. I refer to those problems as to the commercial of the 800 lb. gorilla in **YOUR** room.

PROBLEMS

1. You have the Postal service tied to a factor of having to use the cost of living yearly rate as your rate of increase of Postal rates.

Having the largest flute of vehicles in the world, coupled with the enormous rise in fuel prices the last few years

has become one hell of a burden. This makes it out of balance with the cost of living rate increase.

2. You have been sucked into the enormous prepayment of medical costs.
3. A third problem is the costs of delivering the mail. According to **YOUR** figures, door to door as in the most cities costs \$367 per customer per year, curbside service is approx. \$100 less per customer per year, post office boxes, like we now have and want to keep are approx. \$200 per customer per year cheaper than door to door.

SUMMARY

Your people always stress that you are in a sense, a separate complete entity from the Federal Government and cannot ask for tax dollars to bail you out. If you are a separate entity, go into Bankruptcy and restructure your problems.

This would let you raise rates to offset part of it. A 10% raise would amount to 6.5 billion dollars. You would also be able to drastically cut the prepayment on the medical-say ½ of the present rate/year= almost another 3 billion. Last, **but not least**, put every town (large as well as small) on Post office boxes like we presently are. It would drastically cut employees, vehicles, etc., and save many billions of dollars! **Is that higher IQ starting to kick in yet?!**

I know, from personal experience, that this can be done. Back in the 70's, our family was involved in the trucking of swinging meat, from the Midwest to New York, as well as the Boston and Philadelphia areas. We handled approximately 100 loads per week. That first large jump in the fuel prices took place then. The cost of a gallon of diesel fuel rose from 22 cents to 80 cents per gallon. We had to apply for rate increases through the ICC and also for the rights to haul from one point to another. We never received

anything close to what we needed to cover cost increases. I heard on T.V. about the Kennedy committee working to deregulate the airlines, so I called them about doing the same to the ICC. I testified in Washington, D.C.- **It was done! You could do the same and it would solve your total problems!**

As to our small town, I asked Todd Case to bring the financial figures to the study meeting, he conveniently forgot them. I made calls every day the next week and was given a different excuse each time and even had my calls blocked. I started using other phones of family and friends and got him every time that way when he could not recognize the phone number. Finally, on the following Friday, he informed me that I would have to go through the Freedom of Information Act to get the material. I have enclosed what followed in the additional material enclosed.

If you will look at the total information I have enclosed, you will realize the anger toward the postal service that is being generated in the small towns across the nation.

We have one of the largest private owned banks in Iowa in our town. It depends on the Postal service to the tune of approximately \$30,000 of mail per year alone. The proposal to close notice listed 1 meter customer with no name or amount of business. This was our bank. **Fuzzy math again!** Our post office is one of the few that is holding its own as far as Profit and Loss goes, yet it was one of the first on the list for closing. A friend who has worked for the Postal administration for years told me-Vance your town was just a part of the quota that they were given to fill and the fact that you were a small town whose postmaster had retired was all they looked at. He also said that the day Randolph was put on the list they in a sense ordered the cluster boxes for you because no town ever survived the notice to close! In later meetings they have stopped talking "cluster boxes" and now say that everyone has to buy their own.

When I talked to Anne Kennedy about the appeal, which I had sent on behalf of our town, she said that it was premature as we were not in the actual closing notice period yet. I told her that we wanted to speed this Farce up so we could say that we had exhausted all the so-called procedures and could file suit in federal court. Other towns I have talked to, have asked about joining in a class-action lawsuit which would drop the cost considerably to each town if all of them joined with us.

If you think that we are bluffing-check, and you will see that our attorney has already contacted one of your attorneys, (Ms. Julie Helarud in Denver) to see what attorney you will use in our area. If when we go to Federal court and we win, how many of these closed post offices will you have to reopen and how many of the closings in progress will you have to stop? I have obtained material from other towns that their post offices were completely closed fraudulently.

As to the fuzzy math, your people do not list the financial problems that the Postal service will suffer in the closing of most of these small post offices.

1. Our bank will resort to other means to retain their service to their customers in the same time frame as they have it now. This could result in a 50% drop in their postal needs.
2. The people in our town will think twice about driving a 20 mile round trip for postal needs and will rely on telephone and email to friends and relatives and those will response likewise.
3. The owner of our post office bld. has a non-cancelable lease that runs through Aug. of 2018, at \$10,000+ per year.
4. Your people list items of financial figures as savings, if our post office is closed, that is totally wrong.
A.) Savings of lease cost-not for 7 yrs. Or a \$60,000+ buyout.

B.) Postmaster salary plus fringe benefits of \$44,000 is WRONG. We don't have a

Postmaster and the persons in charge (2
alternate so the 40 hrs. a wk. rule is
Bypassed) receives 14.75 per hr. and no
fringe benefits, & we are getting along just
Fine with this arrangement.

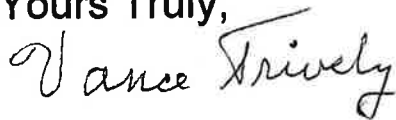
According to your rules, the Postal service is required
to give a maximum degree of efficient service to all of its
customers. This is changing our town from box holders to
horse and buggy (the Pony Express rides again) and leaving
city people on door to door is very unfair in anybody's mind,
let alone a judge in federal court.

I asked if they had done any study on the effect the
closings would have on the towns like ours. Their answer
was that they don't enter into speculation. It seems that this
is exactly what your closing of up to 10,000 Post offices is. It
sure does not get down to the facts.

When I go to other's town's study meetings, I let your
rep. build his case and after he is done, I ask to speak.
Several times the crowd had stood and applauded when I
was done. They know that they have heard the facts from
someone they can TRUST.

I hope after receiving this letter, you will sit down with
your people and do what is right for everyone and get the
Postal Service on firm footing again. What you are doing
now is not going to help in the least and will hurt the Postal
Service enormously in the future.

Yours Truly,



Vance Trively

Mayor of Randolph, IA 51649

Phone #712-625-2471

Cell #402-889-1307